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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

ANALYTICAL ALPHABET

FOR THE

Mexican & Central American Languages.

BY

C. HERMANN BERENDT, M. D.

PUBLISHED BY THE

AMERICAN ETHNOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

NEW YORK:

REPRODUCED IN FAC-SIMILE BY THE

AMERICAN PHOTO-LITHOGRAPHIC COMPANY,

(Osborne's Process.)

1869.

Dr. C. Hermann Berendt.

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The Revised and Amended Constitution

OF THE

American Ethnological Society.

NEW YORK, FEBRUARY 13TH, 1867.

Article I.—*Name.*

This Society (established in 1842, by Albert Gallatin, John Russell Bartlett, George Folsom, Alexander I. Cotheal, Francis L. Hawks, Theodore Dwight, Edward Robinson, Charles Welford, William W. Turner, Thomas Ewbank, Henry R. Schoolcraft, Alexander W. Bradford and John L. Stephens), shall be called the American Ethnological Society.

Article II.—*Objects.*

The objects of this Society shall comprise inquiries into the origin, progress, and characteristics of the various races of man.

Article III.—*Members.*

This Society shall consist of three classes of Members, Resident, Corresponding and Honorary. Resident members shall consist of persons residing in the City of New York or its vicinity. Corresponding and Honorary Members shall consist of persons residing either in the United States or in foreign countries. All classes of Members shall be elected by ballot, unless it be dispensed with by unanimous consent. In case of a ballot, two negatives shall exclude.

Article IV.—*Dues.*

Every Resident Member shall, on his election, pay into the treasury the sum of five dollars as an initiation fee. He shall also pay the sum of five dollars as annual dues.

Article V.—*Officers.*

The Officers of the Society shall consist of a President, two Vice-Presidents, a Corresponding Secretary, a Recording Secretary, a Treasurer and a Librarian—who shall be elected annually by ballot, at the first meeting in every year. Seven members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

Article VI.—*Executive Committee.*

The President and Recording Secretary, *ex officio*, and three other members to be elected annually, shall constitute an Executive Committee for the transaction of business committed to them, and for general oversight and charge of the business affairs of the Society. This Committee shall report at each general meeting.

Article VII.—*Standing Committees.*

There shall be two Standing Committees of the Society, to consist of five Members each, to be elected annually, viz.: the Committee on Publication, and the Committee on Nominations. The latter shall receive all nominations, with the proper evidence of fitness, etc., and at subsequent meetings they may, at their discretion, report the same to the Society for its action.

Article VIII.—*Meetings.*

The meetings of the Society shall be held monthly, from the months of October to June inclusive, at such time and place as shall be determined by the Executive Committee. During the months of November, February, and May, there shall be held public meetings, for which special preparation shall be made, and to which persons specially interested in Ethnology shall be invited. The Executive Committee shall be charged with the care of the necessary arrangements for these public meetings.

Article IX.—*Amendments.*

This Constitution may be amended by a vote of three-fourths of the Members present at any regular meeting, provided notice of such proposed amendment, or amendments, be given at a previous meeting.

29, 1869.

Dr. C. H. Berendt's Analytical Alphabet
for Mexican and Central-American Languages

Having been occupied during a number of years with comparative studies of some Mexican and Central-American languages, the want of an available alphabet induced me to invent one for my own use. By continued linguistic researches I was enabled to correct and complete it. During the last two years I have had no reason for further amendments, though I had occasion to hear and to write down more of the languages of Central America.

My basis is the Spanish alphabet and pronunciation; my method is the analysis. I call such letters, as I am unable to dissolve, elements, and I adopt one sign for each.

Consonants.

1. Elementary Consonants. They are:

b d f g h j j̈ k l m n p r s t v x y.

g has always the hard sound as in gig. **h** is the English or German h, the spiritus asper of the Greek. **j** is German ch as in ich. **j̈** is French j as in jeu or French g as in rouge and English z as in seizure. **x** is English sh, French ch or German sch.

2. Combined Consonants, expressed in digraphs by juxtaposition of the elements. **ks** is English x as in tax. **ny** is the Spanish ñ. **ly** is the Spanish ll. **dj̈** is the Italian g before e and i or English j as in jail. **ts** is the German z. **tx** is English ch as in

church and also the Spanish ch.

Note. In most cases it is irrelevant, whether we take such a digraph for a compound consonant or for a mere juxtaposition of two consonants. We might call ks in English, pf in German, tl in Mexican either one or the other. But I accept ts and tx as compound consonants as these in their combination are subject to a certain modification.

3. Modified Consonants. — A guttural modification is marked by a small circle below the line. j is guttural j as in caja (Span.), in buch (Germ.) or in chilchen (Swiss German). — k̥ is guttural k. — ɣ is guttural r, as in wrong, our. — The so called nasal modification is marked by a point under the line. n̩ is nasal n as in bon (French) or as ng in sing. — A lisped modification is marked by a cedilla. ṣ is the lisped s as the Spanish z. — ṭ and ḍ would be the signs for the common sound of hard and soft English th, although correctly spoken it is tṣ or dṣ. — ʃ is the soft s as in amuse or z as in frozen; the German s as in sand. — Where I found it desirable to distinguish the r vibrated with the point of the tongue from the common r, which is produced by vibration of the body of the tongue and from the unvibrated r often heard in incorrect speech, I have used the sign r for the first and ɹ for the last. — A peculiar modification, found in the Maya-languages, is marked by a bar, crossing the letter horizontally. It consists in a short interruption of sound after the pronunciation of the consonant and before the following vowel is heard.

These consonants, the consonantes heridas of Spanish authors on the Maya, I call cut or broken consonants. **k** is the cut **k**; **p** is the cut **p**; **t** is the cut **t**; **ts** is the cut **ts**; **tx** is the cut **tx**. Omitting from the sentence break in the letters brea and pronouncing the remainder k in, gives exactly the sound of **kin**. The same experiment made with the sentences leap on, cut off, reach in and Katzen (Germ.) gives the sound of **pon**, **tof**, **txin**, **tsan**. The distinction between the simple and the cut consonant is important. For instance **kan** means snake and **kan** yellow in Maya.

Note. The peculiar click with the tongue, which occurs in some North-American languages, may be another modification, or perhaps a new element. As I have never heard it from an Indian's mouth, I have no opinion to give about it.

Vowels.

1. Elementary Vowels: **a**, **e**, **i**, **o**, **u** with their continental sound. If desirable, distinction can be made by using the prosodical signs for long and short. – **ā** as in father; **ă** as in hat (Germ.). – **ē** as in cedro (Span.), or reh (Germ.), and also as ey in they; **ĕ** as in met. – **ī** as ee in bee; **ĭ** as in pin. – **ō** as in stone; **ŏ** as in not. – **ū** as oo in fool; **ŭ** as in full.

Note. The vowel signs and particularly **e** represent in our European languages rather different sounds. If we were to carry out consequently the analysis of their vowel-sounds, it would be necessary to introduce the German modified vowels **ä**, **ö**, **ü**, both long and short, into our alphabet. But that, I fear, would make it unpalatable for all but German students. For our present purpose I have found

sufficient the definition of continental vowel-sounds as given by Fr. Gibbs in the Smithsonian Miscellaneous Collections, No. 160.

2. Modified Vowels. a between a and o. – ā as a in talk; ă as in what. – e between e and i, as e in college. – ö between the German ö and ü; ō as u in urge and ŏ as in but; the latter often more of a groan or an humming, than an articulated vowel.

3. Combinations of Vowels. I distinguish: a, – True diphthongs, combined of vowels, which change their elementary sound, merging in a new one; for instance: au in baum (Germ.), as ow in how (Engl.) and ei in beil (Germ.) as i in pine, etc. Those very rarely occur in American languages. I mark them with a bow at the bottom and would write: baum, hau, beil, pein.

b, – False diphthongs, to wit: combinations of elementary vowels in one syllable, which do not lose their peculiar sound and are pronounced one after another; most common in American languages, as also in Spanish. One of the elements is always predominant, the other accessory or half mute. I write the latter half size and elevated above the line. For instance: the Spanish words baul, reina, bien I would write $ba^{u}l$, $rei^{n}a$, $bi^{e}n$. – In languages of the Maya family they are often formed by a repetition of the same vowel, and constitute a remarkable distinction; kan is snake and $k^{a}an$ is sky in Maya. The Mexican word for great written by authors huey, guey or uey is pronounced ^{u}ei in one syllable. So I would write $b^{u}ei$ for the Spanish monosyllable buey.

Note. Two juxtaposited vowels of equal size in the same word without the bow at the bottom, indicate that they belong to two different syllables, for instance ia in the Spanish word **sabía** (knew), which has three syllables, while **sabia** (~~fam.~~ wise) has only two. — e and i form in **bein** (Sam.) a true diphthong, in **reina** a false diphthong in the above established sense, and in **reinkorporasion** (Span.) they belong to two different syllables. In writing thus I avoid the use of hyphen and diaeresis, which I need occasionally for other purposes.

Marks of Punctuation.

The accent is used according to the rule in Spanish, to wit: all words ending with a consonant have the accent on the last syllable; all polysyllables ending with a vowel on the penult, if they appear without accent. This sign is used exclusively to indicate exceptions from that rule and placed in such cases on the vowel of the accentuated syllable. For example: **Paris**, **Granada**, **Lóndon**, **Méksiko**, **Txiriki**.

The apostrophe marks the contraction of a word by the omission of a letter or letters.

The hyphen is occasionally used to mark compound words.

It is obvious, that new elements and new modifications of elements occurring in languages not yet examined, might be added without altering in the least the established analytical alphabet.

Synopsis of the Analytical Alphabet.

a	ā as in father. – ă as in hat. (Germ.)
a	ā as in talk. – ă as in what.
b	as in boy.
d	as in did. – dj as j in jail.
e	ē as in cedro (Span.) and as ey in they. – ĕ as in met.
e	as the first e in college.
f	as in fife.
g	as in gig.
h	as in hand.
i	ī as ee in bee. – ĭ as in pin.
j	as ch in ich (Germ.)
j	as j in caja (Span.) and as ch in buch (Germ.).
j	as j in jeu (French) and as z in seizure.
k	as in kik. – c in Maya. – c or qu in Cakchiquel.
ḳ	is the guttural k. – k in Cakchiquel.
ḱ	is the cut k. – k in Maya. – ɔ in Cakchiquel.
ḱ	is the guttural ḱ. – ɔ̃ in Cakchiquel.
l	as in bell. – ly as ll in llano (Span.)
m	as in mimic.
n	as in noon. – ny as ñ in baño (Span.)
ṇ	as n in bon (French) and as ng in sing.
o	ō as in stone. – ŏ as in not.
o	ō as in urge. – ŏ as in but.
p	as in pipe.
ṗ	is the cut p.
r	as in rip.
ʒ	as in our.

s as in *son*. – ks as x in *tax*.
ṣ is the lisped s.
ʃ is the soft s, as in *amuse* and in *sand*. (Germ.)
t as in *tight*.
ṭ is the cut t. – th in Maya. – tt in Cakchiquel.
ts as z in *zopf* (Germ.). – tz or tz in Maya etc.
ṭs is the cut ts. – ɔ in Maya. – ʇ or ʇ in Cakchiquel.
tx as ch in *church*. – ch in Maya and Cakchiquel.
ṭx is the cut tx. – ch in Maya. – ʇh in Cakchiquel.
u ū as oo in *fool*. – ŭ as in *full*.
v as in *vive*.
x as sh in *shoe* and as ch in *chien*. (French)
y as in *year* and as j in *jahr*. (Germ.)

P.S. Although not intended for it, this alphabet, tried on some languages of North America, has answered for their writing and I believe it likely to answer also for South American languages. It can be used without further explanation or alteration, to write the Spanish and Italian languages, and, if we exclude too nice and subtle distinctions, the introduction of the German ä, ö, ü, long and short, would make it suitable also for German, French and English and their dialects, if for no other purpose, perhaps for orthoëpic explanation from one language into another

New York, June 30th 1868.

C. H. Berendt

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The Lord's Prayer.

In Maya: ka yumé, yan-etx ti kᵃanoᵒb, kilitxkuntabak a kabá; tak k'okol aᵘ ajaᵘlil; utskintabak aᵘ olaj ti luum baix ti kᵃane; tsa ka samalkinᵘaj tᵒon jelelᵃᵉ; satex ix ka paxil, bai ka satsik ti k'ajpaxoob; maix a patik ka lubul ti tuntabale jéᵘak lukeson itxil lobil.

In Spanish: padre nᵘestro, ke estas en los siélos; santifikado seᵃ tu nombre; venga a nos el tu reino; ágase tu voluntad así en la tierra komo en el sielo; el pan nᵘestro de kada diᵃ dánosle oⁱ; i perdónanos nᵘéstras déᵘdas así komó nosótros perdonámos a nᵘéstros deᵘdóres; i no nos déjes kaer en tentasion, mas líbranos de mal.

In German: fáter únſer, där du bist im himmel, geheiliget ſei dein name; dein reij komme; dein ville gexehe vi im himmel, alſo auj auf ärden; únſer täglijes brot gib uns heute; unt fergib uns únſere xult, vi vir fergäben únſern xúldigern; unt füre uns nijt in fersújung, ſóndern erlöſe uns fon dem übel.

[At a regular Meeting of the American Ethnological Society, held in Cooper Institute, New York, on Tuesday, evening, November 10th, 1868.—

It was Resolved, That the Thanks of the Society are eminently due to Dr. C. Hermann Berendt, for his very interesting and valuable Manuscript of the Analytical Alphabet for the Mexican and Central American Languages.—

Also Resolved, That the said Alphabet be Photo-Lithographed for the Society, and that it be referred to a Special Committee, with power, viz:—Messrs. Alexander S. Cotheal, Charles C. Jones Jr. and Henry T. Drowne.

—Extract from the Minutes.— Henry R. Giles, Rec. Sec.]

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